there be a fall in exports in these three categories apart from other handloom goods which are beset with difficulty, and also what steps have been taken by the Government to maintain at least the standard of exports in these categories which I have mentioned?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : So far as Bleeding Madras is concerned, the market has been ruined by bad quality. Similar as handkerchiefs are concerned there is a competition form mill-made goods in West Africa. So far as lungis are concerned there is protection now imposed by Indonesia and Ceylon.

Black diamond

* 542 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state the steps taken to exploit black diamond found in Pattiveeranpatti, Madura district?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No occurrence of diamond is reported in this area. Hence the question of exploitation does not arise.

Good Attendance Allowance

* 543 *Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any of the technical staff amongts the transferred personnel of the Transport Department have been getting the good attendance allowance at any time; and

(*b*) whether this allowance has been stopped; if so, from when?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir. They were getting a ' Good Attendance Allowance ' of Rs. 5 (Rupees five) per mensem.

(*b*) No, Sir. An Attendance Bonus Scheme has been introduced in the State Transport Department with effect from 1st October 1960. Under this Scheme, the technical staff including the transferred personnel are paid an attendance bonus of Rs. 5 per mensem in lieu of the 'Good Attendance Allowance.'

Milk

* 544 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that milk from Madhavaram Milk Project is distributed to the consumers in bottles of unequal sizes; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) Distribution of milk under the Madras Dairy and Milk Project is being made in $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ litre standard bottles with effect from 1st October 1960.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the criticism in the English dailies that milk has been supplied in bottles of unequal sizes?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have already stated that the milk is distributed in $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ litre standard bottles with effect from 1—10—1960. Before that, milk was distributed in $\frac{1}{2}$ litre and 1 litre standard bottles but $\frac{1}{2}$ litre bottle would hold 1·1 lb. of milk. Therefore, to avoid loss to the Government, the Milk Factory has been instructed to fill 1 lb. of milk. So, there is no basis for the criticism.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to get enough bottles of equal sizes?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I cannot say that the Government have got enough number of bottles. To the extent it is available it will be distributed.

Sales-tax

* 545 *Q.*—SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to axempt the following articles from sales tax—

(i) Mudpots manufactured by co-operative societies;

(ii) ready-made garments;

(iii) articles like quilts and pillows; and

(iv) biscuits and cakes (unpacked)?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The answer to this question was prepared on 25th January 1961. It reads as follows :—

(i) to (iv) Since the question anticipates the Budget proposals, Government decline to answer the question.

Railway track (Tambaram-Villupuram)

* 546 *Q.*—SRI A. VEDARATHNAM: கனம் உள்துறை அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தயவுசெய்து கீழ்க்கண்ட கேள்விகளுக்குப் பதிலளிப்பாரா—

(அ) தாம்பரம்-விழுப்புரம் ரயில் பாதையில் எந்த மின் சாரத்தை உபயோகிப்பதென்று முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது? ஏ.ஸி.யா ? டி.ஸி.யா ?

(இ) இதனால் ஏற்படக்கூடிய அனுகூலமென்ன ?

(உ) எப்போது இவ்வேலை துவக்கப்படும் ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Our information is as follows :—

(*a*) The electrification will be done on the A.C. system of traction.

(*b*) The A.C. system of traction has been found to be more economical in first cost and running costs. The A.C. locomotives possess superior qualities especially in starting heavy loads.

(*c*) The work on the field is expected to be commenced by the middle of 1961.